Proposal for Regional Science centre at Dharwad and Mangalore

2994. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to set up a Regional Science Centre at Dharwad and Mangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for setting up of Regional Science Centre at Dharwad and Mangalore by the Ministry of Culture.

(b) For Regional Science Centre, Dharwad, the land has been identified and selected. However, commitments as per the norms of the Science Centre are awaited from State Government of Karnataka. The proposal for Regional Science Centre, Mangalore did not conform to the norms for setting up of Science Centre and therefore, the State Government of Karnataka has been requested for certain modifications in the proposal.

Conference of Science Ministers of India and European Union

†2995. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken in the conference of Science Ministers of India and European Union held in February, 2007;

(b) the degree of Project partnerships between India and European Union at present;

(c) the efforts made by Government to enhance this partnership; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the study on the rapid environmental changes and global warming?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The decisions taken at India-EU Ministerial Science Conference are contained in the "New Delhi Communique" signed at New Delhi on February 7, 2007 by the Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology and Earth

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sciences India, German Minister for Education and Research under the framework of German Presidency of European Union and the European Commissioner for Science and Research. The New Delhi Communique *interalia:*

* Underlines that science and technology cooperation between the India and European Union (EU) should be based on the principles of symmetry, reciprocity, mutual benefit and, where appropriate, the co-investment of resources in joint actions;
* Underlines the potential benefits of joint or coordinated calls for proposals, in strategically important research fields of mutual interest involving the co-investment of resources equally open to research communities in the EU and in India on a partnership model for balanced mutual benefits for both sides;
* Provides for holding India-Eu strategic workshop series on some key areas like climate change, clean energy, combustion, comprehensive approach to system biology with a focus on infectious deseases and drug development including pre-clinical and clinical trails;
* Recommends establishment of a critical number of joint India-EU nodes for networking innovation systems in different regions of India and Europe;
* New symmetric program for providing science and technology collaboration and mobility with joint funding;
* Combined effort to create joint infrastruces for advanced research in both India and EU.

(b) As on date, under the India-European Commission Science and Technology Agreement (ratified by both sides on Oct. 14, 2002), project based partnership between Indian and European Union scientists do not exist.

(c) With a view to enhance India-EU partnerships, Government is working jointly with European Commission for Coordinated Joint Call for Proposals with co-investment of resources including funds under the India-EC S&T Agreement framework. Such a step will lead to development of India-EU research projects.

Further, India-EU Working Group/Panels within the India-EU Strategic Partnership Initiative framework are also working for enhancing India-EU partnerships. These include:

* "India-EU Joint Working Group on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology" is deliberating on India-EU R&D Project on neglected diseases;
* "India-EU Joint Working Group on Environment" is discussing possibilities of cooperation on issues such as biological diversity, bio-safety, climate change, clean technology, international environmental governance, sustainable forestry;
* "India-Eu Energy Panel" is focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energies, coal and clean coal conversion technologies, fusion energy, including India's membership in ITER and Petroleum and Natural Gas. Besides interaction for initiating joint research, design, development and manufacture of renewable energy systems/devices by institutions of both sides, India-EU Joint Studies in 5 areas have been recently approved, namely, (i) Coal Quality Management System in India; (ii) Application of Eco-design requirement/methodology of energy using products in India; (iii) Assessment of potential of using bio fuel in India; (iv) Study and renovation & modernization of a thermal power plant, and (v) Assessment of technologies for capture and geological storage of corbon-dioxide.

(d) Steps taken by Government to study rapid environmental changes and global warming include:

* Possibilities have been explored on making CDM process more efficient and with reduced transaction coast at "India-Eu Workshop on Implementing Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (at New Delhi, Nov. 11-12-2006)"
* Exchange of experience on waste management-waste recycling and waste minimization has been the focus at India-EU Environment Forum held at New Delhi on December 7, 2006 and November 12, 2005 respectively.
* India-EU State Partnership Program in States of Chhattisgarh & Rajasthan (2006—2011) involving $160M) is operational with focus on education and health with environment as a cross cutting theme.

* Possibility of soliciting technical assistance for developing Indian expertise, enhancing technical assistance for developing India expertise, enhancing technical and institutional capacity on environmental issues with focus on waste, climate change, air pollution, water and chemicals exists under "Action Plan Support Facility Programme-APSF Program" designed to implement India-EU Action Plan linked to India-EU Strategic Partnership Initiative. ASRF Progam will become operational from Oct. 1, 2007 with EC contribution share of $8M.

* Climate change and air quality, climate change impacts and extreme, events, adaptation and mitigation strategies have emerged as research priorities for strengthening future collaboration at India-EU Workshop on Climate Change Research Needs (Feb. 08-9-2007)

* Government is undertaking range of policies and programmes to mitigate environmental changes and global warming. Comprehensive coordinated effort is being undertaking at national level by Ministry of Earth Science. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune as national lead institute is covering observational and modeling aspects. Collaborative projects are underway with international community on topics such as climate change assessment and impact analysis, study of aerosols as part of atmospheric brown cloud program.

Non-utilization of modern technology

†2996. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest modern technology is not being used in the fields of agriculture, industry and service sector in India due to lack of the research work;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that agriculture and industry of the country have failed to complete at the level of international market; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.